

Chapter 2 - sections 1 & 2.

EDRAY METHODIST CHURCH - 1882

When Berlin Chapel on Stony Creek became too small for the number of people who worshiped there, they felt the need for a new church, so those living near Edray decided to build a church at Edray.

The date of the deed was June 17, 1882 - the land was given by Nathan and Margaret G. Barlow, 121 poles adjoining the turnpike road. The deed was made to George F. Moore, Samuel B. Moore, William K. Sharp, Henry Barlow, and Thomas Auldridge, Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

This was a Northern Methodist Church until the Methodist Churches united. However, all denominations were welcomed here. It is located about one-fourth mile from the village of Edray on Route / 219.

Mr. E. D. King was the contractor and boarded at Mr. Samuel B. Moore's. John Hull was a carpenter under Mr. King. Messrs. James and George W. McCollum were the stone masons and built the foundation and chimney. Some of the members hauled lumber and some furnished lumber by way of paying their part. The church was paid for by subscription and a very substantial collection was received at the dedication. This was used to help pay for the church.

Rev. ... M. Chappell was the pastor at the time this church was built. The Berlin Chapel and Edray Church have always been served by the same pastor.

When the Edray Church was built, the Hamlin Chapel congregation worshiped at this church for twenty-three years and abandoned the Hamlin Chapel for that length of time.

Mrs. Jane L. Price, wife of Dr. William T. Price wrote the words to a hymn that was sung at the dedication of the Edray Church. Mrs. Price was a poet and published two volumes of verses.

This church building is a large frame building with a seating capacity of five hundred. The church has always been too large for the congregation. However, the object in building such a large church was in order to have room for large gatherings such as protracted meetings, conventions, funerals, etc.

Shortly after the Edray church was completed, the "County Teachers' Institute" was held here for a number of years, or until after Marlinton had begun to develop and they were held there.

Among those who were influential in building the Edray Church and were the first members, were:

Rev. George P. Moore, who was licensed to preach in 18  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Moore  
 Mr. John Barlow  
 Mr. Anderson Barlow  
 Mr. Davis Barlow  
 Mr. W. H. Gay  
 Mrs. Josephine Lann

Henry Serlow  
 William L. and Julia I. Shorp  
 Thomas Aldridge  
 Daniel Serlow and family  
 Isaac Serlow and family  
 Hankin Serlow  
 W. J. Smith and family  
 Aaron Moore who lived a mile below Marlinton.  
 George K. Gey and wife.  
 James Aldridge and family, who came from Red Lick  
 about four miles from Gray. They walked and were present  
 at every service of any kind that was held in the church.

The pastors who have served this congregation from  
 1776 to the present time, are:

- 1776 - 1778 Rev. J. C. Dickline
- 1778 - 1779 " A. W. Richardson
- 1779 - 1780 " Geo. P. Moore
- 1780 - 1782 " J. C. Dickline
- 1782 - 1783 " J. C. Dickline
- 1783 - 1785 " A. K. Chappell
- 1785 - 1786 " George Spencer
- 1787 - 1788 " R. E. Clark
- 1788 - 1794 " J. C. Morgan
- 1794 - 1799 " W. W. Shorp
- 1800 - 1801 " M. W. Atkinson
- 1801 - 1804 " A. K. Crabtree

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1904 - 1908 Rev. G. K. Keff  
 1908 - 1909 " George J. Marston  
 1909 - 1913 " Ira F. Rickett  
 1913 - 1916 " H. W. Coffman  
 1916 - 1920 " F. L. Ramsey  
 1920 - 1923 " C. A. Powers  
 1923 - 1929 " E. S. Hill  
 1929 - 1933 " T. H. Taylor  
 1933 - 1936 " D. H. Carder  
 1936 - 1938 " D. J. Combs  
 1938 - present Rev. R. E. Skaggs

The trustees at the time the church was built were:

Rev. Geo. J. Moore

Samuel B. Moore

Wm. H. Sharp

Henry Serlow

Thomas Muldrige

This church at the present time has about twenty-five active members. They have preaching services the first and third Sundays of each month.

The trustees for 1940 & 1941 are:

Lee G. Sarlow

Willet Gray

Robert Gray

The Stewards are:

Robert Jay

Frank Young

Mrs. W. R. Moore

There has always been a Sunday School in this church. At the first it was closed during the most severe winter weather. The Sunday school is in session all the year round now. The enrollment is thirty. Mrs. Ernest McNeil is the supt.

The Ladies of the church have a very active organization, the Ladies' Aid Society. The officers are:

President -- Mrs. S. R. Moore

Treasurer -- Mrs. W. R. Goy

Secretary -- Mrs. Lela Van Renssen

This organization helps to pay the pastor's salary. They also keep the parsonage repaired and help to keep the church in good condition. The parsonage and about four acres of land belong to the church. The parsonage with the land is valued at \$5000.00. Both the church and parsonage are free of debt. The church also supplies the pastor with a good car.

In September, 1940 the parsonage caught on fire. All of the members of the household were sleeping soundly. Had it not been for the dog awakening the family, the consequences might have been more serious. As it was, most of the furniture on the first floor of the house was destroyed and the building was badly damaged. The building was covered by

insurance had so that was taken care of but there was no insurance on the furniture. The fire caught in the radio. The greatest loss was four or five very expensive stringed instruments. The Ladies' Aid gave a silver tea and with the receipts refurnished a part of the parsonage.

Last year the Ladies' Aid made eighty dollars and all of this was spent on the church and parsonage.

Mr. Skaggs has nine churches on his charge. For his services to all of these churches, he receives one thousand dollars per year, use of the parsonage, cow and some land which he farms. Each church pays a definite part of the pastor's salary, proportioned according to the active membership of the respective churches.

The Ladies' Aid Societies of the other churches on this charge contribute to the upkeep of the parsonage.

Information: Church records  
 Mrs. Adam Baxter  
 Mr. Anderson Berlow  
 Rev. R. H. Skaggs